



# Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History)

*By Judith Shapiro*

Download now

Read Online ➔

## **Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) By Judith Shapiro**

In clear and compelling prose, Judith Shapiro relates the great, untold story of the devastating impact of Chinese politics on China's environment during the Mao years. Maoist China provides an example of extreme human interference in the natural world in an era in which human relationships were also unusually distorted. Under Mao, the traditional Chinese ideal of "harmony between heaven and humans" was abrogated in favor of Mao's insistence that "Man Must Conquer Nature." Mao and the Chinese Communist Party's "war" to bend the physical world to human will often had disastrous consequences both for human beings and the natural environment. Mao's War Against Nature argues that the abuse of people and the abuse of nature are often linked. Shapiro's account, told in part through the voices of average Chinese citizens and officials who lived through and participated in some of the destructive campaigns, is both eye-opening and heartbreaking. Judith Shapiro teaches environmental politics at American University in Washington, DC. She is co-author, with Liang Heng, of several well known books on China, including *Son of the Revolution* (Random House, 1984) and *After the Nightmare* (Knopf, 1986). She was one of the first Americans to work in China after the normalization of U.S.-China relations in 1979.

📄 [Download Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the En ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the ...pdf](#)

# Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History)

*By Judith Shapiro*

## **Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) By Judith Shapiro**

In clear and compelling prose, Judith Shapiro relates the great, untold story of the devastating impact of Chinese politics on China's environment during the Mao years. Maoist China provides an example of extreme human interference in the natural world in an era in which human relationships were also unusually distorted. Under Mao, the traditional Chinese ideal of "harmony between heaven and humans" was abrogated in favor of Mao's insistence that "Man Must Conquer Nature." Mao and the Chinese Communist Party's "war" to bend the physical world to human will often had disastrous consequences both for human beings and the natural environment. Mao's War Against Nature argues that the abuse of people and the abuse of nature are often linked. Shapiro's account, told in part through the voices of average Chinese citizens and officials who lived through and participated in some of the destructive campaigns, is both eye-opening and heartbreaking. Judith Shapiro teaches environmental politics at American University in Washington, DC. She is co-author, with Liang Heng, of several well known books on China, including *Son of the Revolution* (Random House, 1984) and *After the Nightmare* (Knopf, 1986). She was one of the first Americans to work in China after the normalization of U.S.-China relations in 1979.

## **Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) By Judith Shapiro Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #505847 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Cambridge University Press
- Published on: 2001-03-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.98" h x .75" w x 5.98" l, 1.15 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 332 pages

 [Download Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the En ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) By Judith Shapiro

---

### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Historians have well chronicled Mao Zedong's crimes against the people of China over his four decades of rule, but his crimes against the Chinese land have been less studied. Judith Shapiro, a historian at American University, tells that dark story with admirable thoroughness.

A central tenet of Maoist ideology was the rejection of both ancient Chinese tradition and modern Western science, both of which offered an ample store of evidence to suggest that rivers flow best when unimpeded, that biological diversity is a good and necessary thing. Instead, Mao Zedong insisted, the laws of historical materialism mandated that everything in creation be put into the service of the revolution: Forests had to be felled to make steel for China's industrial development, mountains had to be leveled to make room for agricultural fields, rivers had to be reversed in their courses to provide power and irrigation. Marshaling the people of China in campaigns to clear land and destroy grain-hungry birds, among other things, Mao remade the landscape in just a few years, ordering imperial-scale projects such as the Three Gorges Dam. His policies led to disaster, to deforestation, air and water pollution, and ultimately famine--but some of those policies are still in force.

Shapiro observes that Mao Zedong cannot be held entirely accountable for the destruction of China's land, water, and air; he had, after all, many willing deputies. Still, the political repression he put in place made resistance almost impossible--and even today, Shapiro writes in her impressive study of Mao's war on the environment, his actions have proved difficult to undo. "Until China confronts its uneasy Maoist legacy," the author concludes, "it may struggle fruitlessly to achieve a sustainable relationship with the natural world." --  
*Gregory McNamee*

#### From Publishers Weekly

Much has been written on the human suffering in China under Mao Zedong, and a growing literature has examined the environmental degradation of this period. In this unique and important study American University environmentalist Shapiro, co-author with Liang Heng of three previous books on China, combines the two themes. Her thesis is "that the abuse of people and nature are often interrelated," and that Mao's China is an extreme case of this connection. Under Mao, China was a place of fierce repression and constant mobilization of the "masses." Through the power of their will and obeisance to Mao, it was believed the masses would develop China. Nature, then, was the enemy to be conquered, but it was not the only one; anyone who disagreed with Mao was an enemy as well, and could be banished, imprisoned or killed. Thus, as Shapiro shows in finely crafted case studies, Mao launched a series of utopian mass development schemes tempered neither by scientific caution nor by democratic political opposition. As Mao ignored warnings on China's explosive population growth, deforestation projects and overuse and misuse of the land led to massive famine in the 1960s. Local practices were disregarded as Mao demanded the uniform application across China of questionable policies such as the forced growing of grain no matter what the local conditions. Through these and other similar schemes, by Mao's death in 1976 both nature and the masses were exhausted and ruined. Mao's most lasting legacy, Shapiro observes, may be a cynicism and disillusionment among the Chinese people that makes them suspicious of any public goals, including the environmental reclamation of China. (Apr.) Forecast: The author will promote this in Washington, D.C., New York and San Francisco, and with advertising in the *Economist*, *Natural History*, *Atlantic Monthly* and the *New York Review of Books*, this book should reach a hard-core audience interested in China, human rights and environmentalism.

From Scientific American

In China during the Mao years, Shapiro writes, "coercive state behavior such as forcible relocations and suppression of intellectual and political freedoms contributed directly to a wide range of environmental problems ranging from deforestation and desertification to ill-conceived engineering projects that degraded major river courses." Indeed, "few cases of environmental degradation so clearly reveal the human and environmental costs incurred when human beings, particularly those who determine policy, view themselves as living in an oppositional relationship to nature." Shapiro, who teaches environmental politics at American University in Washington, D.C., examines closely such disastrous Mao projects as the Three Gate Gorge Dam on the Yellow River and the devastation of agriculture through campaigns that imposed a uniform agricultural model on the entire country regardless of local conditions. China's environmental problems continue today, 25 years after Mao's death, although Shapiro sees some "apparently serious efforts" by the central government to deal with them. She also sees the possibility that "a government may yet evolve that is environmentally responsible and responsive."

*EDITORS OF SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jeffrey Paolucci:**

What do you think of book? It is just for students as they are still students or it for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that question above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby per other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great and also important the book Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History). All type of book would you see on many sources. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

#### **Douglas Wyss:**

This Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) is great publication for you because the content that is full of information for you who also always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This book reveal it details accurately using great coordinate word or we can declare no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but hard core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) in your hand like getting the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no publication that offer you world within ten or fifteen small right but this e-book already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt this?

**Alta Favors:**

You may spend your free time to read this book this e-book. This Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) is simple to create you can read it in the recreation area, in the beach, train in addition to soon. If you did not include much space to bring often the printed book, you can buy the particular e-book. It is make you easier to read it. You can save often the book in your smart phone. So there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

**Margaret Conley:**

On this era which is the greater particular person or who has ability in doing something more are more important than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time little but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. Among the books in the top listing in your reading list is Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History). This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking upwards and review this book you can get many advantages.

**Download and Read Online Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) By Judith Shapiro #PZSY8LHMKUO**

## **Read Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) By Judith Shapiro for online ebook**

Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) By Judith Shapiro Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) By Judith Shapiro books to read online.

## **Online Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) By Judith Shapiro ebook PDF download**

**Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) By Judith Shapiro Doc**

**Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) By Judith Shapiro Mobipocket**

**Mao's War Against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China (Studies in Environment and History) By Judith Shapiro EPub**